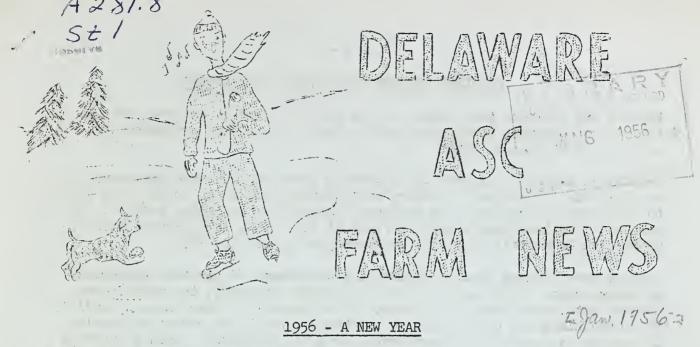
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We are glad to welcome into the ASC organization a few new committeemen along with several who have been re-elected. We look forward to working with you in promoting the program for 1956. In the words of Secretary Benson, 'There is no more important responsibility within the Department of Agriculture than that for taking aggressive leadership for the conservation and improvement of the nation's soil and water resources. Cost-sharing under the Agricultural Conservation Program is an important and effective means through which landowners and operators are aided in doing essential conservation work needed in the public interest. The extent to which the program helps meet conservation objectives is dependent upon the whole-hearted participation of all those interested in conservation, at national and local level, and we solicit their cooperation in making the program effective.'

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS POINT UP INCOME PROBLEM

The basic need in rural areas of low income is for more on-the-farm resources and increased opportunity for off-the-farm employment. This was the consensus of agricultural and rural life experts who testified November 21 before the Joint Subcommittee on Low-Income families, headed by Senator Sparkman.

FARMERS' INCOME TAX SHORT COURSE

The Farmers' Income Tax Short Course, sponsored by the School of Agriculture of the University of Delaware, will be held the second week of January. The places and dates of the meetings are: Georgetown High School, January 9; Middletown High School, January 10; Capitol Grange Hall, January 11; and Harmony Grange Hall, January 12. All meetings will start at 8:00 p.m.

A representative from the Federal Tax Department will discuss how soil and water conservation expenses are handled in computing taxable income. Other tax deductions and exemptions will also be discussed. Mr. Wallace, of the State Tax Department, will indicate the main differences between the state and federal income tax regulations.

This year will be the first time that self-employed farmers will pay social security taxes. A representative from the Social Security Administration will be present to explain the method and procedure of paying such taxes.

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DEADLINE FOR CCC GRAIN LOANS APPROACHING

Farmers are reminded that there is only about a month before the deadline for taking out Commodity Credit Corporation loans or purchase agreements for the grain crops here in Delaware.

January 31 is the final date for approving loans and purchase agreements for the eligible 1955 crops. However, applications must be in before this date to allow time to complete the necessary inspections and other details. To play safe, applications should be filed at the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices on or before January 25, 1956.

Perhaps more farmers should consider the advantages of purchase agreements on their crops. To be eligible for a purchase agreement, the farmer must harvest within his acreage allotment and maintain his grain in good condition. He places his grain under purchase agreement through his county ASC office. The charge is one-half cent per bushel or a \$1.50 minimum. This guarantees him price support price on the quantity and quality that he actually delivers at the time of call, up to the amount that he put under price agreement. If he desires to sell any of it on the open market before the call date, he is at liberty to do so. CCC just guarantees the price on what he actually delivers to them.

INTEREST RATE ON CCC LOANS

The rate of interest payable to lending agencies which are financing CCC price support loans on 1955 crops and 1954 reseal purchase agreement loans was increased by one-fourth of 1 percent per annum, effective from December 1, 1955. This will not result in any additional costs to farmers. The rate of interest charged farmers obtaining price support loans on their commodities will remain at the present rate of 3 1/2 percent per annum. Lending agencies which have funds in such loans after December 1 will receive compensation at the rate of 2 1/2 percent per annum for interest, effective from that date, plus the fees for services now provided in the lending agency agreements, compared to the present rate of 2 1/4 percent for interest, plus fees. In the case of loans on grain and related commodities, where the lending agency agreement provides a single rate of compensation to cover both interest and services, this will mean that the overall rate of compensation will be increased from 2 3/4 percent to 3 percent per annum. These increases will be effective from December 1, 1955, and will not be retroactive.

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Farm and Home Week is to be held on February 7, 8, and 9 at the University of Delaware.

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Enclosed for your information is a copy of a pamphlet, 'Facts about the Agricultural Conservation Program.' Also enclosed is a copy of our 1956 ACP Delaware Handbook.

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NEW OFFICE MANAGER FOR KENT COUNTY

Mr. Lister Hall of Frederica has been selected as office manager of Kent County ASC Office to succeed Mr. R. Harry Wilson who resigned as of January 1, 1956. Lister has been working as field reporter and performance clerk in the Kent County Office for several months. An outstanding 4 H Club member and farmer helps to give him a good background for his new position. Mr. Wilson has been connected with the Farm program since their start as the old AAA in 1934. He will still be connected with the Department by serving as Vice chairman of the 1956 Kent County ASC Committee. He leaves his position as office manager with the best wishes of a host of friends. Our best wishes go to Lister in his new position.

NEW FARM CORN ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Any producer who intends to plant corn in 1956 in Delaware on a farm where no corn was planted during the years 1953, 1954, or 1955 must apply before February 1 for a corn acreage allotment if he wants price support on his corn in 1956.

Marketing quotas do not apply to corn. However, under the acreage allotment program, the production of corn in 1956 on a farm which has no corn acreage allotment would make all the corn produced on such farm ineligible for price support in 1956.

Application froms for a corn acreage allotment are available at the county ASC offices. February 1, 1956, is the last day such applications may be filed.

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We folks here at the State office hope that the coming year, 1956, overflows with good health, good friends, and good fortune.

FOR THE DELAWARE ASC STATE COMMITTEE

r: 1. Macked

State Administrative Officer

